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rule is found to lie at five letters. When the limit is reached the addition of one letter to the series of auditory impressions produces a very decided fall in the number of series which are reproduced quite correctly; this fall amounts to 40 to 50 per cent. on the average. With abnormal subjects the relations are similar but less clear. In the abnormal cases the general nature of the pathological changes are similar. They consist in a marked diminution in the power of reproducing impressions in correct order, and in a more or less distinct increase of all the errors indicating the more severe forms of associational disorder. In all the groups (normal and abnormal) within certain limits the total of errors indicating partial dissociation or disorder remains relatively constant and reaches approximately the same absolute magnitude. None of the groups shows any marked fluctuations of attention, or any distinct and regular improvement by practice. With the help of this method we are able to differentiate with some precision between the more permanent memory and the power of immediate reproduction.

Bolton's paper on the "Pathological Changes in the Medulla Oblongata in Acute Diphtheritic Toxæmia" is a study of the degenerative changes caused by the diphtheria toxine in the nuclei of the medulla. The contribution by Cole is a further histological study of one of the three cases published in *Brain* (Autumn, 1902), relating to changes in the central nervous system in alcoholic paralysis with the characteristic polyneuritic mental disorder.

A Case of Moral Insanity with Repeated Homicides and Incendiarism and Late Development of Illusions. H. R. STEDMAN. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, July 21, 1904. Vol. CLI, No. 13.

This very excellent contribution relates to the case of the moral imbecil, J. T., who suddenly became notorious as one of the greatest poisoners of modern times. The entire history is given in great detail showing the gradual development of the moral weakness, the repeated homicides by poison, the medico-legal complications and the mental status of her hospital residence with the elaboration into a fixed, delusional state. There follows a discussion of the case by members of the medical society before whom the paper was read. On the whole, it is an important contribution to the much-discussed subject of moral insanity and it will certainly repay perusal.

The Localizing Diagnostic Significance of so-called Hemianopic Hallucinations with Remarks on Bitemporal Scintillating Scotomata. A. PICK. American Journal of the Medical Sciences. Jan., 1904. Vol. CXXVII, No. 1.

Recently Prof. A. Pick, of Prague, has made several contributions to American and English Medical Journals, and the one whose title appears above is probably the most important, combining as it does localizing neurological diagnosis, with the most prominent symptom occurring in the course of mental diseases. He bases his paper on a recent observation of Jolly, that light phenomena in a hemianopic field of vision, have their origin in the primary optical tracts and not in the cortex. He elaborates on this statement, however, by showing that more complicated phenomena than simple, elementary light sensations, in fact, real hallucinations, may be produced in an hemianopic area by focal organic or functional disorders in the optic tracts. Four cases are given, mostly from the author's private practice. In regard to visual hallucinations in general, it is now known that they may take place in any part of the visual apparatus, from the cornea to the cortical layer in the occipital lobe, and the author promulgates a

similar theory regarding hemianopic hallucinations. With these latter there usually coexists other focal symptoms, such a paraphasia, paragraphia, hemianæsthesia, etc. He argues against the functional nature of the disturbance, basing his theory on the clinical material at hand. These hallucinations may be mere light phantasms, color disorders with changing of colors, animals, vague figures and phantoms, colored lights and planes, and lines and figures moving in snake-like gyrations. Sometimes the figures are sharply defined, at others they may present a hazy "fringe."

Ueber Ermüdungskurven bei Gesunden, Neurosen und Psychosen.
DR. BREUKINK. Monat. f. Psychiatrie und Neurologie. Bd. XV.
H. 4, April, 1904.

The work was done in the psychological laboratory of the psychiatric clinics of Utrecht and Halle. The ergograph of Kraepelin was used with weights of 5, 4 and 3 kilograms. The lifting was carried on to exhaustion with a pause of two minutes between each series of curves, and the rhythm was registered by the metronome. In the illustrations the following ergograms are given: hysteria without any particular motor symptoms, neurasthenia, multiple sclerosis with one-sided hemi-paresis (the curve being taken with the left hand), chorea minor almost entirely confined to the left side with a curve of a permanent contraction in the same patient, and two curves from a case of dystrophia muscularis progressiva. The author draws the following conclusions. In healthy individuals there is ordinarily found a high convexity in the commencement of the curve. In many cases of hysteria, which psychically showed only the well known psychopathic constitution, there is often found a remarkable giving out which soon passes away, so that in these cases, after the pause of two minutes there may be the same or even a greater number of liftings than before the pause. In most cases of neurasthenia, the course of the height of the exhaustion curve was straight or concave. In chorea the involuntary contraction soon strengthened, but then weakened, so that the curve had a very irregular fall. The retardation of the fatigue was also remarkable. In cases of organic cerebral hemi-paresis (multiple sclerosis, brain thrombosis, general paralysis) the number of the liftings and the mechanical work of the paralyzed side is less, while the average lift height is about the same as on the healthy side. In a case of dystrophia muscularis progressiva, it was observed on the contrary that with a small average lift height, the number of liftings was disproportionately large.

[For further applications of the ergograph to psychiatry see "Ueber die Wirkung der Theebestandtheile auf körperliche und geistige Arbeit," by A. Hoch and F. Kraepelin, *Psychologische Arbeiten*. Bb. I, H. 2 and 3, where it is applied to the mental and physical effects of caffeine and the ethereal oils of tea; also "On Certain Studies with the Ergograph," by A. Hoch, *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, Vol. XXVIII, p. 620, 1902, where there are given graphic studies of retardation and inhibition on the voluntary motor processes in the depressed phase of manic-depressive insanity, and finally the same writer's review of psychological and physiological experiments done in connection with mental diseases, *Psychological Bulletin*, Vol. I, Nos. 7-8, June 15, 1904.]

Vergleichende Psychiatrie. F. KRAEPELIN. Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde und Psychiatrie. Bb. XV. July, 1904.

This highly suggestive paper, is we believe, the first serious contribution to comparative psychiatry. The observations were made in the